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**Subject:** Bears Ears briefing memos  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 21, 2017 12:06:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [Attachment 1 Bears Ears Proclamation.pdf](#)  
[Attachment 2 Monuments Checklist October 2016.docx](#)  
[Bears Ears Briefing Memo 2 Meetings 02.21.17.docx](#)  
[Attachment 1 Bears Ears Public Meetings 02.21.17.docx](#)  
[Bears Ears Briefing Memo 1 02.21.2017.docx](#)

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Rich and all,

Attached are draft briefing materials for Thursday's briefing on proposed Bears Ears National Monument public meetings. There are two different briefing memos attached - one is specific to the question of public meetings, but we've also included a background memo on the monument for your reference. Thanks!

Lara

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary

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For Immediate Release

December 28, 2016

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Rising from the center of the southeastern Utah landscape and visible from every direction are twin buttes so distinctive that in each of the native languages of the region their name is the same: Hoon'Naqvut, Shash Jáa, Kwiyaqatu Nukavachi, Ansh An Lashokdiwe, or "Bears Ears." For hundreds of generations, native peoples lived in the surrounding deep sandstone canyons, desert mesas, and meadow mountaintops, which constitute one of the densest and most significant cultural landscapes in the United States. Abundant rock art, ancient cliff dwellings, ceremonial sites, and countless other artifacts provide an extraordinary archaeological and cultural record that is important to us all, but most notably the land is profoundly sacred to many Native American tribes, including the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray, Hopi Nation, and Zuni Tribe.

The area's human history is as vibrant and diverse as the ruggedly beautiful landscape. From the earliest occupation, native peoples left traces of their presence. Clovis people hunted among the cliffs and canyons of Cedar Mesa as early as 13,000 years ago, leaving behind tools and projectile points in places like the Lime Ridge Clovis Site, one of the oldest known archaeological sites in Utah. Archaeologists believe that these early people hunted mammoths, ground sloths, and other now-extinct megafauna, a narrative echoed by native creation stories. Hunters and gatherers continued to live in this region in the Archaic Period, with sites dating as far back as 8,500 years ago.

Ancestral Puebloans followed, beginning to occupy the area at least 2,500 years ago, leaving behind items from their daily life such as baskets, pottery, and weapons. These early farmers of Basketmaker II, and III and builders of Pueblo I, II and III left their marks on the land. The remains of single family dwellings, granaries, kivas, towers, and large villages and roads linking them together reveal a complex cultural history. "Moki steps," hand and toe holds carved into steep canyon walls by the Ancestral Puebloans, illustrate the early people's ingenuity and perseverance and are still used today to access dwellings along cliff walls. Other, distinct cultures have thrived here as well -- the Fremont People, Numic- and Athabaskan-speaking hunter-gatherers, and Utes and Navajos. Resources such as the Doll House Ruin in Dark Canyon Wilderness Area and the Moon House Ruin on Cedar Mesa allow visitors to

marvel at artistry and architecture that have withstood thousands of seasons in this harsh climate.

The landscape is a milieu of the accessible and observable together with the inaccessible and hidden. The area's petroglyphs and pictographs capture the imagination with images dating back at least 5,000 years and spanning a range of styles and traditions. From life-size ghostlike figures that defy categorization, to the more literal depictions of bighorn sheep, birds, and lizards, these drawings enable us to feel the humanity of these ancient artists. The Indian Creek area contains spectacular rock art, including hundreds of petroglyphs at Newspaper Rock. Visitors to Bears Ears can also discover more recent rock art left by the Ute, Navajo, and Paiute peoples. It is also the less visible sites, however -- those that supported the food gathering, subsistence and ceremony of daily life -- that tell the story of the people who lived here. Historic remnants of Native American sheep-herding and farming are scattered throughout the area, and pottery and Navajo hogans record the lifeways of native peoples in the 19th and 20th centuries.

For thousands of years, humans have occupied and stewarded this land. With respect to most of these people, their contribution to the historical record is unknown, but some have played a more public role. Famed Navajo headman K'aayélie was born around 1800 near the twin Bears Ears buttes. His band used the area's remote canyons to elude capture by the U.S. Army and avoid the fate that befell many other Navajo bands: surrender, the Long Walk, and forced relocation to Bosque Redondo. Another renowned 19th century Navajo leader, "Hastiin Ch'ihaaajin" Manuelito, was also born near the Bears Ears.

The area's cultural importance to Native American tribes continues to this day. As they have for generations, these tribes and their members come here for ceremonies and to visit sacred sites. Throughout the region, many landscape features, such as Comb Ridge, the San Juan River, and Cedar Mesa, are closely tied to native stories of creation, danger, protection, and healing. The towering spires in the Valley of the Gods are sacred to the Navajo, representing ancient Navajo warriors frozen in stone. Traditions of hunting, fishing, gathering, and wood cutting are still practiced by tribal members, as is collection of medicinal and ceremonial plants, edible herbs, and materials for crafting items like baskets and footwear. The traditional ecological knowledge amassed by the Native Americans whose ancestors inhabited this region, passed down from generation to generation, offers critical insight into the historic and scientific significance of the area. Such knowledge is, itself, a resource to be protected and used in understanding and managing this landscape sustainably for generations to come.

Euro-Americans first explored the Bears Ears area during the 18th century, and Mormon settlers followed in the late 19th century. The San Juan Mission expedition traversed this rugged country in 1880 on their journey to establish a new settlement in what is now Bluff, Utah. To ease the passage of wagons over the slick rock slopes and through the canyonlands, the settlers smoothed sections of the rock surface and constructed dugways and other features still visible along their

route, known as the Hole-in-the-Rock Trail. Cabins, corrals, trails, and carved inscriptions in the rock reveal the lives of ranchers, prospectors, and early archaeologists. Cattle rustlers and other outlaws created a convoluted trail network known as the Outlaw Trail, said to be used by Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. These outlaws took advantage of the area's network of canyons, including the aptly-named Hideout Canyon, to avoid detection.

The area's stunning geology, from sharp pinnacles to broad mesas, labyrinthine canyons to solitary hoodoos, and verdant hanging gardens to bare stone arches and natural bridges, provides vital insights to geologists. In the east, the Abajo Mountains tower, reaching elevations of more than 11,000 feet. A long geologic history is documented in the colorful rock layers visible in the area's canyons.

For long periods over 300 million years ago, these lands were inundated by tropical seas and hosted thriving coral reefs. These seas infused the area's black rock shale with salts as they receded. Later, the lands were bucked upwards multiple times by the Monument Upwarp, and near-volcanoes punched up through the rock, leaving their marks on the landscape without reaching the surface. In the sandstone of Cedar Mesa, fossil evidence has revealed large, mammal-like reptiles that burrowed into the sand to survive the blistering heat of the end of the Permian Period, when the region was dominated by a seaside desert. Later, in the Late Triassic Period more than 200 million years ago, seasonal monsoons flooded an ancient river system that fed a vast desert here.

The paleontological resources in the Bears Ears area are among the richest and most significant in the United States, and protection of this area will provide important opportunities for further archaeological and paleontological study. Many sites, such as Arch Canyon, are teeming with fossils, and research conducted in the Bears Ears area is revealing new insights into the transition of vertebrate life from reptiles to mammals and from sea to land. Numerous ray-finned fish fossils from the Permian Period have been discovered, along with other late Paleozoic Era fossils, including giant amphibians, synapsid reptiles, and important plant fossils. Fossilized traces of marine and aquatic creatures such as clams, crayfish, fish, and aquatic reptiles have been found in Indian Creek's Chinle Formation, dating to the Triassic Period, and phytosaur and dinosaur fossils from the same period have been found along Comb Ridge. Paleontologists have identified new species of plant-eating crocodile-like reptiles and mass graves of lumbering sauropods, along with metoposaurus, crocodiles, and other dinosaur fossils. Fossilized trackways of early tetrapods can be seen in the Valley of the Gods and in Indian Creek, where paleontologists have also discovered exceptional examples of fossilized ferns, horsetails, and cycads. The Chinle Formation and the Wingate, Kayenta, and Navajo Formations above it provide one of the best continuous rock records of the Triassic-Jurassic transition in the world, crucial to understanding how dinosaurs dominated terrestrial ecosystems and how our mammalian ancestors evolved. In Pleistocene Epoch sediments, scientists have found traces of mammoths, short-faced bears, ground sloths, primates, and camels.

From earth to sky, the region is unsurpassed in wonders. The star-filled nights and natural quiet of the Bears Ears area transport visitors to an earlier eon. Against an absolutely black night sky, our galaxy and others more distant leap into view. As one of the most intact and least roaded areas in the contiguous United States, Bears Ears has that rare and arresting quality of deafening silence.

Communities have depended on the resources of the region for hundreds of generations. Understanding the important role of the green highlands in providing habitat for subsistence plants and animals, as well as capturing and filtering water from passing storms, the Navajo refer to such places as "Nahodishgish," or places to be left alone. Local communities seeking to protect the mountains for their watershed values have long recognized the importance of the Bears Ears' headwaters. Wildfires, both natural and human-set, have shaped and maintained forests and grasslands of this area for millennia. Ranchers have relied on the forests and grasslands of the region for ages, and hunters come from across the globe for a chance at a bull elk or other big game. Today, ecological restoration through the careful use of wildfire and management of grazing and timber is working to restore and maintain the health of these vital watersheds and grasslands.

The diversity of the soils and microenvironments in the Bears Ears area provide habitat for a wide variety of vegetation. The highest elevations, in the Elk Ridge area of the Manti-La Sal National Forest, contain pockets of ancient Engelmann spruce, ponderosa pine, aspen, and subalpine fir. Mesa tops include pinyon-juniper woodlands along with big sagebrush, low sage, blackbrush, rabbitbrush, bitterbrush, four-wing saltbush, shadscale, winterfat, Utah serviceberry, western chokecherry, hackberry, barberry, cliff rose, and greasewood. Canyons contain diverse vegetation ranging from yucca and cacti such as prickly pear, claret cup, and Whipple's fishhook to mountain mahogany, ponderosa pine, alder, sagebrush, birch, dogwood, and Gambel's oak, along with occasional stands of aspen. Grasses and herbaceous species such as bluegrass, bluestem, giant ryegrass, ricegrass, needle and thread, yarrow, common mallow, balsamroot, low larkspur, horsetail, and peppergrass also grow here, as well as pinnate spring parsley, Navajo penstemon, Canyonlands lomatium, and the Abajo daisy.

Tucked into winding canyons are vibrant riparian communities characterized by Fremont cottonwood, western sandbar willow, yellow willow, and box elder. Numerous seeps provide year-round water and support delicate hanging gardens, moisture-loving plants, and relict species such as Douglas fir. A few populations of the rare Kachina daisy, endemic to the Colorado Plateau, hide in shaded seeps and alcoves of the area's canyons. A genetically distinct population of Kachina daisy was also found on Elk Ridge. The alcove columbine and cave primrose, also regionally endemic, grow in seeps and hanging gardens in the Bears Ears landscape. Wildflowers such as beardtongue, evening primrose, aster, Indian paintbrush, yellow and purple beflower, straight bladderpod, Durango tumble mustard, scarlet gilia, globe mallow, sand verbena, sego lily, cliffrose, sacred datura, monkey flower, sunflower, prince's plume, hedgehog cactus, and columbine, bring bursts of color to the landscape.

The diverse vegetation and topography of the Bears Ears area, in turn, support a variety of wildlife species. Mule deer and elk range on the mesas and near canyon heads, which provide crucial habitat for both species. The Cedar Mesa landscape is home to bighorn sheep which were once abundant but still live in Indian Creek, and in the canyons north of the San Juan River. Small mammals such as desert cottontail, black-tailed jackrabbit, prairie dog, Botta's pocket gopher, white-tailed antelope squirrel, Colorado chipmunk, canyon mouse, deer mouse, pinyon mouse, and desert woodrat, as well as Utah's only population of Abert's tassel-eared squirrels, find shelter and sustenance in the landscape's canyons and uplands. Rare shrews, including a variant of Merriam's shrew and the dwarf shrew can be found in this area.

Carnivores, including badger, coyote, striped skunk, ringtail, gray fox, bobcat, and the occasional mountain lion, all hunt here, while porcupines use their sharp quills and climbing abilities to escape these predators. Oral histories from the Ute describe the historic presence of bison, antelope, and abundant bighorn sheep, which are also depicted in ancient rock art. Black bear pass through the area but are rarely seen, though they are common in the oral histories and legends of this region, including those of the Navajo.

Consistent sources of water in a dry landscape draw diverse wildlife species to the area's riparian habitats, including an array of amphibian species such as tiger salamander, red-spotted toad, Woodhouse's toad, canyon tree frog, Great Basin spadefoot, and northern leopard frog. Even the most sharp-eyed visitors probably will not catch a glimpse of the secretive Utah night lizard. Other reptiles in the area include the sagebrush lizard, eastern fence lizard, tree lizard, side-blotched lizard, plateau striped whiptail, western rattlesnake, night snake, striped whipsnake, and gopher snake.

Raptors such as the golden eagle, peregrine falcon, bald eagle, northern harrier, northern goshawk, red-tailed hawk, ferruginous hawk, American kestrel, flammulated owl, and great horned owl hunt their prey on the mesa tops with deadly speed and accuracy. The largest contiguous critical habitat for the threatened Mexican spotted owl is on the Manti-La Sal National Forest. Other bird species found in the area include Merriam's turkey, Williamson's sapsucker, common nighthawk, white-throated swift, ash-throated flycatcher, violet-green swallow, cliff swallow, mourning dove, pinyon jay, sagebrush sparrow, canyon towhee, rock wren, sage thrasher, and the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher.

As the skies darken in the evenings, visitors may catch a glimpse of some the area's at least 15 species of bats, including the big free-tailed bat, pallid bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, spotted bat, and silver-haired bat. Tinajas, rock depressions filled with rainwater, provide habitat for many specialized aquatic species, including pothole beetles and freshwater shrimp. *Eucosma navajoensis*, an endemic moth that has only been described near Valley of the Gods, is unique to this area.

Protection of the Bears Ears area will preserve its cultural, prehistoric, and historic legacy and maintain its

diverse array of natural and scientific resources, ensuring that the prehistoric, historic, and scientific values of this area remain for the benefit of all Americans. The Bears Ears area has been proposed for protection by members of Congress, Secretaries of the Interior, State and tribal leaders, and local conservationists for at least 80 years. The area contains numerous objects of historic and of scientific interest, and it provides world class outdoor recreation opportunities, including rock climbing, hunting, hiking, backpacking, canyoneering, whitewater rafting, mountain biking, and horseback riding. Because visitors travel from near and far, these lands support a growing travel and tourism sector that is a source of economic opportunity for the region.

WHEREAS, section 320301 of title 54, United States Code (known as the "Antiquities Act"), authorizes the President, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Federal Government to be national monuments, and to reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected;

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to preserve the objects of scientific and historic interest on the Bears Ears lands;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by section 320301 of title 54, United States Code, hereby proclaim the objects identified above that are situated upon lands and interests in lands owned or controlled by the Federal Government to be the Bears Ears National Monument (monument) and, for the purpose of protecting those objects, reserve as part thereof all lands and interests in lands owned or controlled by the Federal Government within the boundaries described on the accompanying map, which is attached to and forms a part of this proclamation. These reserved Federal lands and interests in lands encompass approximately 1.35 million acres. The boundaries described on the accompanying map are confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

All Federal lands and interests in lands within the boundaries of the monument are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from all forms of entry, location, selection, sale, or other disposition under the public land laws or laws applicable to the U.S. Forest Service, from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing, other than by exchange that furthers the protective purposes of the monument.

The establishment of the monument is subject to valid existing rights, including valid existing water rights. If the Federal Government acquires ownership or control of any lands or interests in lands that it did not previously own or control within the boundaries described on the accompanying map, such lands and interests in lands shall be reserved as a part of the monument, and objects identified above that are situated upon

those lands and interests in lands shall be part of the monument, upon acquisition of ownership or control by the Federal Government.

The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior (Secretaries) shall manage the monument through the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), pursuant to their respective applicable legal authorities, to implement the purposes of this proclamation. The USFS shall manage that portion of the monument within the boundaries of the National Forest System (NFS), and the BLM shall manage the remainder of the monument. The lands administered by the USFS shall be managed as part of the Manti-La Sal National Forest. The lands administered by the BLM shall be managed as a unit of the National Landscape Conservation System, pursuant to applicable legal authorities.

For purposes of protecting and restoring the objects identified above, the Secretaries shall jointly prepare a management plan for the monument and shall promulgate such regulations for its management as they deem appropriate. The Secretaries, through the USFS and the BLM, shall consult with other Federal land management agencies in the local area, including the National Park Service, in developing the management plan. In promulgating any management rules and regulations governing the NFS lands within the monument and developing the management plan, the Secretary of Agriculture, through the USFS, shall consult with the Secretary of the Interior through the BLM. The Secretaries shall provide for maximum public involvement in the development of that plan including, but not limited to, consultation with federally recognized tribes and State and local governments. In the development and implementation of the management plan, the Secretaries shall maximize opportunities, pursuant to applicable legal authorities, for shared resources, operational efficiency, and cooperation.

The Secretaries, through the BLM and USFS, shall establish an advisory committee under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) to provide information and advice regarding the development of the management plan and, as appropriate, management of the monument. This advisory committee shall consist of a fair and balanced representation of interested stakeholders, including State and local governments, tribes, recreational users, local business owners, and private landowners.

In recognition of the importance of tribal participation to the care and management of the objects identified above, and to ensure that management decisions affecting the monument reflect tribal expertise and traditional and historical knowledge, a Bears Ears Commission (Commission) is hereby established to provide guidance and recommendations on the development and implementation of management plans and on management of the monument. The Commission shall consist of one elected officer each from the Hopi Nation, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray, and Zuni Tribe, designated by the officers' respective tribes. The Commission may adopt such procedures as it deems necessary to govern its activities, so that it may effectively partner with the Federal



agencies by making continuing contributions to inform decisions regarding the management of the monument.

The Secretaries shall meaningfully engage the Commission or, should the Commission no longer exist, the tribal governments through some other entity composed of elected tribal government officers (comparable entity), in the development of the management plan and to inform subsequent management of the monument. To that end, in developing or revising the management plan, the Secretaries shall carefully and fully consider integrating the traditional and historical knowledge and special expertise of the Commission or comparable entity. If the Secretaries decide not to incorporate specific recommendations submitted to them in writing by the Commission or comparable entity, they will provide the Commission or comparable entity with a written explanation of their reasoning. The management plan shall also set forth parameters for continued meaningful engagement with the Commission or comparable entity in implementation of the management plan.

To further the protective purposes of the monument, the Secretary of the Interior shall explore entering into a memorandum of understanding with the State that would set forth terms, pursuant to applicable laws and regulations, for an exchange of land currently owned by the State of Utah and administered by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration within the boundary of the monument for land of approximately equal value managed by the BLM outside the boundary of the monument. The Secretary of the Interior shall report to the President by January 19, 2017, regarding the potential for such an exchange.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to interfere with the operation or maintenance, or the replacement or modification within the current authorization boundary, of existing utility, pipeline, or telecommunications facilities located within the monument in a manner consistent with the care and management of the objects identified above.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to enlarge or diminish the rights or jurisdiction of any Indian tribe. The Secretaries shall, to the maximum extent permitted by law and in consultation with Indian tribes, ensure the protection of Indian sacred sites and traditional cultural properties in the monument and provide access by members of Indian tribes for traditional cultural and customary uses, consistent with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (42 U.S.C. 1996) and Executive Order 13007 of May 24, 1996 (Indian Sacred Sites), including collection of medicines, berries and other vegetation, forest products, and firewood for personal noncommercial use in a manner consistent with the care and management of the objects identified above.

For purposes of protecting and restoring the objects identified above, the Secretaries shall prepare a transportation plan that designates the roads and trails where motorized and non-motorized mechanized vehicle use will be allowed. Except for emergency or authorized administrative purposes, motorized and non-motorized mechanized vehicle use shall be allowed only on roads and trails designated for such use, consistent with the care and management of such objects. Any additional roads or

trails designated for motorized vehicle use must be for the purposes of public safety or protection of such objects.

Laws, regulations, and policies followed by USFS or BLM in issuing and administering grazing permits or leases on lands under their jurisdiction shall continue to apply with regard to the lands in the monument to ensure the ongoing consistency with the care and management of the objects identified above.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to enlarge or diminish the jurisdiction of the State of Utah, including its jurisdiction and authority with respect to fish and wildlife management.

Nothing in this proclamation shall preclude low-level overflights of military aircraft, the designation of new units of special use airspace, or the use or establishment of military flight training routes over the lands reserved by this proclamation consistent with the care and management of the objects identified above.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to alter the authority or responsibility of any party with respect to emergency response activities within the monument, including wildland fire response.

Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to revoke any existing withdrawal, reservation, or appropriation; however, the monument shall be the dominant reservation.

Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of the monument and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.

BARACK OBAMA

# # #

## **WELCOME TO THE BLM'S NATIONAL CONSERVATION LANDS!**

[www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands](http://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands)

### ***NEW NATIONAL MONUMENTS & NCAs CHECKLIST – What to do right after designation***

**Primary Actions to be done immediately after designation** (Work closely with the Washington Office to complete these tasks):

- ☐ Identify an interim manager/point of contact for the new National Conservation Lands unit (e.g. Asst. Field Manager, Outdoor Rec Planner, etc.).
- ☐ Acquire acreage data for the new unit (total acres, BLM managed acres, other federal and state managed acres, inholdings, private).
- ☐ Find and collect high-quality photos of the areas/landscapes within the new unit boundaries and make them available to the WO.
- ☐ Prepare an itemized list of funding needs for the new unit (include labor, operations, facilities, and other start-up costs) to be made available for Budget Office requests and other information sharing.
- ☐ Develop a new webpage for the new unit; use designating language for content and use photos.
- ☐ Start serialized case file for the new unit.

#### **Next steps:**

##### ***1. Know your authorities***

- ☐ Get to know the proclamation that created the new unit.
- ☐ Identify and record the resources, objects, and values for which the unit was designated
- ☐ Identify management prescriptions and other relevant provisions in the designating language.
- ☐ Familiarize the team with [Title II, Subtitle A: National Landscape Conservation System \(Public Law 111-11 \(Omnibus Public Land Management Act\), FLPMA](#), and other relevant statutes.
- ☐ Read [Secretarial Order 3308](#).

##### ***2. Know your policies***

- ☐ Read relevant BLM Manuals and consider how they relate to the new unit designation:
  - ☐ [Manual Section 6100](#) (2012) – NLCS
  - ☐ [Manual Section 6220](#) (2012) – National Monuments, NCAs, and Similar Designations
  - ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Read other program Manual Sections that may apply to your unit, including Recreation, Visual Resource Management, Realty, Solid Minerals, Range, etc.
- ☐ Review potentially relevant Instruction Memoranda (Refer to attached list of related National Conservation Lands IMs and IBs).

- ☐ Review relevant Resource Management Plans, activity plans, and other land use plans that apply and review for consistency with the designating authority.

### **3. *Take actions to implement law and policy***

- ☐ Identify and pursue relevant and needed training for employees (new and existing) For example volunteer coordination, partnerships, lands and realty, budget, etc.).
- ☐ Consider potential changes in land use policy and discretionary decisions to accomplish the purposes described in the unit's designating language.
- ☐ Review existing permits and authorized uses for compatibility with the designating authority.
- ☐ Initiate projects to educate the public about the new National Conservation Lands unit.
- ☐ Request to have a new organizational code assigned in FBMS for the new unit.
- ☐ Identify historical funding for management of the public lands that are now the unit.  
Include overhead costs (25-30%). Include FTEs, facilities, projects within the boundaries, etc.
- ☐ Initiate the process to re-program other subactivity funds into subactivity 1711, as applicable.
- ☐ Communicate the budget situation, including immediate needs, to your State and Washington Offices (via briefing paper).
- ☐ Read and get to know the 15-Year NLCS Strategy and the state's Step-down Strategy.
- ☐ Integrate the new unit into BLM's systems: RMIS, FBMS, FAMS, LR2000, MIS, PMDS, etc. RMIS should be a top priority so that visitation numbers can be tracked.
- ☐ Submit budget requests for resource management plan development or amendments.
- ☐ Gather and prepare the spatial data for your unit, including its boundary and recreation facility data, in order to submit it to the NOC's NM/NCA and recreation datasets. This ensures your unit will appear on BLM maps, be included in the recreation mapping project, etc.

### **4. *Know your players***

- ☐ Reach out to the cooperating agencies and entities identified in the designating language.
- ☐ Create a contact list of all relevant BLM, other federal, tribal, state, local, and interest group contacts.
- ☐ Participate in monthly National Monuments and NCAs Conference Calls on the third Thursday of each month.
- ☐ Engage partners – go to other organizations' meetings.
- ☐ Brief the State Office and Washington Office about the progress, events, related to the new unit.
- ☐ Develop an outreach strategy / communications plan in coordination with Public Affairs and National Conservation Lands Leads.

## List of IMs and IBs for National Monuments and National Conservation Areas and Similar Designations (July 2015)

Type	Fiscal Year	Release Date	Number	Subject Code(s)	Title	Link
IM	2016	9/27/2016	2016-153	6100	Use of Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Logo, BLM Visual Design Standards, and National Conservation Lands Wordmark by BLM Partner Organizations	<a href="#">2016-153</a>
IM	2015	4/13/2015	2015-086	6100	Recreation Mapping Project; Due Date: 04/24/2015	<a href="#">2015-086</a>
IM	2015	5/20/2015	2015-069	6100	Interim Recreation Sites Data Standard Schema; DD: 05/15/ 2015	<a href="#">2015-069</a>
IM	2015	12/19/2014	2015-031	3100	Bureau of Land Management National Conservation Lands Visual System Guidelines	<a href="#">2015-031</a>
IB	2015	2/6/2015	2015-027	6100	Nominations for the National Conservation Lands Management Advisory Team; DD: February 20, 2015	<a href="#">2015-027</a>
IB	2015	12/12/2014	2015-026	1784	2015 Resource Advisory Council Call for Nominations	<a href="#">2015-026</a>
IM	2015	12/2/2014	2015-024	6100	National Monument and National Conservation Area FY2014 Manager's Report; DD: 02/13/2015	<a href="#">2015-024</a>
IM	2015	10/30/2014	2015-012	6100	National Landscape Conservation System Research Support Program; DDs: 02/02/2015; 03/02/2015; 03/30/2015	<a href="#">2015-012</a>
IM	2014	6/4/2014	2014-098	6100	2014 Visitor Contact Area Questionnaire	<a href="#">2014-098</a>
IM	2014	4/24/2014	2014-083	6100	National Monument and National Conservation Area FY 2013 Manager's Reports; DD: 90 days from release	<a href="#">2014-083</a>
IM	2014	12/11/2013	2014-018	6100	National Landscape Conservation System Research Support Program; DD: 02/10/2014; 03/03/2014; 03/24/2014	<a href="#">2014-018</a>
IM	2013	6/14/2013	2013-143	6100	National Monument and National Conservation Area FY 2012 Reports; DD: 08/23/2013	<a href="#">2013-143</a>
IM	2013	2/19/2013	2013-076	6100	National Landscape Conservation System Short Name and Wordmark	<a href="#">2013-076</a>
IM	2013	1/23/2013	2013-053	1784	Processing Charter and Nomination Packages pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act	<a href="#">2013-053</a>
IB	2013	1/23/2013	2013-036	1784	2013 Resource Advisory Council Call for Nominations	<a href="#">2013-036</a>
IM	2013	11/1/2012	2013-	6100	NLCS Research Support Program; DD: 02/01/2013	<a href="#">2013-012</a>

Type	Fiscal Year	Release Date	Number	Subject Code(s)	Title	Link
			012			
IB	2013	9/3/2013	2013-012	1786, 6300	The National Conservation Lands “Look and Feel” Project	<a href="#">2013-012</a>
IM	2012	5/6/2012	2012-119	6100	3-Year State National Landscape Conservation System Strategy Template (FY13-15)	<a href="#">2012-119</a>
IM	2012	4/24/2012	2012-111	6100	National Monument and National Conservation Area FY 2011 Reports	<a href="#">2012-111</a>
IB	2012	7/16/2012	2012-093	6100	National Landscape Conservation System Policy Development	<a href="#">2012-093</a>
IM	2012	3/5/2012	2012-077	6230, 6240	Request Field Review of Draft National Monuments and National Conservation Areas Manual	<a href="#">2012-077</a>
IB	2012	5/4/2012	2012-071	6100	National Landscape Conservation System Workshop	<a href="#">2012-071</a>
IB	2012	1/24/2012	2012-032	6100	National Landscape Conservation System Policy Development	<a href="#">2012-032</a>
IB	2012	1/23/2012	2012-030	1784	2012 Resource Advisory Council Call for Nominations	<a href="#">2012-030</a>
IM	2013	11/1/2012	2012-012	6100	NLCS Research Support Program; DD: 02/01/2013	<a href="#">2012-012</a>
IM	2011	9/21/2011	2011-191	6100	Adoption of the Most Recent Edition of the International Building Code (IBC) as the Minimum Bureau Building Code Standard and Adoption of the 2004 CSI MasterFormat Edition of MASTERSPEC® as the BLM Building and Construction Master Guide Specifications	<a href="#">2011-191</a>
IM	2011	8/10/2011	2011-163	6100	National Landscape Conservation System Request for Research Proposals; DD: 11/10/2011	<a href="#">2011-163</a>
IM	2011	4/25/2011	2011-103	6100	National Monument and National Conservation Area FY 2010 Reports	<a href="#">2011-103</a>
IM	2011	4/25/2011	2011-103	6100	National Monument and National Conservation Area FY 2010 Reports	<a href="#">2011-103</a>
IB	2011	8/2/2011	2011-082	6100	Government Land Office 200th Anniversary and Homestead Act 150th Anniversary 2012 Commemoration; DD: August 15, 2011	<a href="#">2011-082</a>
IB	2011	6/27/2011	2011-071	6100	A new DVD – Hope on the Range – A Frontier Legacy Finds its place in the New West	<a href="#">2011-071</a>
IM	2011	1/31/2011	2011-	6100	National Landscape Conservation System Data Standard; DD: 2/28/2011	<a href="#">2011-057</a>

Type	Fiscal Year	Release Date	Number	Subject Code(s)	Title	Link
			057			
IB	2011	5/23/2011	2011-036	1784	2011 Resource Advisory Council Call for Nominations	<a href="#">2011-036</a>
IM	2010	9/17/2010	2010-201	6230, 6240	National Monument and National Conservation Area Evaluation; DD: 10/15/2010	<a href="#">2010-201</a>
IM	2010	8/20/2010	2010-186	6100	Inventory of NLCS Congressionally Required Maps and Legal Boundary Descriptions; DD: 10/29/2010	<a href="#">2010-186</a>
IB	2010	9/9/2010	2010-112	6100	Bureau of Land Management NLCS Summit, November 15-18, 2010 and Request for Names of BLM Attendees; DD: 9/17/2010	<a href="#">2010-112</a>
IB	2010	9/1/2010	2010-109	6100	National Landscape Conservation System Fourth Quarter Performance and Accountability Report and Public Lands Statistics Data; DD: 9/24/2010	<a href="#">2010-109</a>
IB	2010	7/29/2010	2010-093	6100	Request for a list of Stakeholders for Invitation to the National Landscape Conservation System Summit, November 15-18, 2010; DD: 8/20/2010	<a href="#">2010-093</a>
IB	2010	7/7/2010	2010-090	6100	National Landscape Conservation System	<a href="#">2010-090</a>
IB	2010	5/30/2010	2010-057	1784	2010 Resource Advisory Council Call for Nominations; DD: 06/18/2010	<a href="#">2010-057</a>
IB	2010	5/4/2010	2010-043	6100	Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the National Landscape Conservation System	<a href="#">2010-043</a>
IM	2010	12/17/2009	2010-036	1680	Data Call for National Monuments and National Conservation Areas Funding; DD: 1/5/2010	<a href="#">2010-036</a>
IM	2010	11/23/2009	2010-020	6100	National Monument and National Conservation Area FY 2009 Reports; DD: 01/29/2010	<a href="#">2010-020</a>
IB	2009	8/12/2009	2009-102	1115	Request for Designation of Staff to Collaborate on Web Features: BLM Tourist Destinations for Youth and Families within the National Landscape Conservation System; DD: 09/09/2009	<a href="#">2009-102</a>
IB	2009	5/15/2009	2009-075	6300	Review of Draft Manual for Congressionally Required Maps and Legal Boundary Descriptions for National Landscape Conservation System Designations; DD: 6/12/2009	<a href="#">2009-075</a>
IB	2009	4/15/2009	2009-068	6100	National Landscape Conservation System 10th Anniversary Celebration	<a href="#">2009-068</a>
IM	2009	10/15/2008	2009-006	6100	National Monument and National Conservation Area Annual Reports; DD: 11/25/2008	<a href="#">2009-006</a>
IM	2008	8/20/2008	2008-	6100	End of year Budget Reports	<a href="#">2008-181</a>



Type	Fiscal Year	Release Date	Number	Subject Code(s)	Title	Link
			181			
IM	2008	4/11/2008	2008-109	1784	Process for Compiling Charter and Nomination Packages for NLCS Advisory Committees	<a href="#">2008-109</a>
IM	2008	2/27/2008	2008-084	6100	Transition Memorandum	<a href="#">2008-084</a>
IB	2008	5/1/2008	2008-074	6100	Social Network Analysis Survey; DD: 5/16/08	<a href="#">2008-074</a>
IB	2008	2/19/2008	2008-048	6100	Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with The Corps Network	<a href="#">2008-048</a>
IB	2008	2/15/2008	2008-046	1784	Resource Advisory Council 2008 Call for Nominations; DD: 06/06/2008	<a href="#">2008-046</a>
IM	2007	9/21/2007	2007-195	6100	Preparation and Submission of FY 2007 Annual Manager's Report DD: 11/09/2007	<a href="#">2007-195</a>
IM	2007	5/1/2007	2007-116	6100	Implementation of the National Landscape Conservation System Science Strategy	<a href="#">2007-116</a>
IM	2007	5/29/2007	2007-091	6100	Policy Change Concerning the Removal of Assets from the Facility Asset Maintenance System (FAMS)	<a href="#">2007-091</a>
IB	2007	3/9/2007	2007-053	6100	NLCS Managers' Meeting DD: 03/23/2007	<a href="#">2007-053</a>
IB	2007	2/21/2007	2007-052	1784	Resource Advisory Council 2007 Call for Nominations DD: 05/30/2007	<a href="#">2007-052</a>
IM	2007	1/22/2007	2007-047	6100	Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 - 2013 Deferred Maintenance and Capital Improvement Plan DD: 05/18/2007; 06/01/2007	<a href="#">2007-047</a>
IB	2007	12/11/2006	2007-017	6100	Bureau of Land Management 2007 Collaboration Desk Guide	<a href="#">2007-017</a>
IM	2006	7/29/2006	2006-220	6100	Status of NLCS Congressionally Required Maps and Legal Descriptions Data Call; DD: 10/31/2006	<a href="#">2006-220</a>
IM	2006	8/9/2006	2006-210	6100	Best Management Practices to be Implemented in FY 2006	<a href="#">2006-210</a>
IM	2006	5/13/2006	2006-123	6100	FY 2008 - 2012 Deferred Maintenance and Capital Improvement Plan; DD: 04/03/2006; 05/05/06; 06/01/2006	<a href="#">2006-123</a>
IM	2006	11/17/2005	2006-040	6100	Adoption of the International Building Code (IBC) as the Minimum Bureau Building Code Standard	<a href="#">2006-040</a>



Type	Fiscal Year	Release Date	Number	Subject Code(s)	Title	Link
IB	2006	10/20/2005	2006-021	6100	Two New BLM Partnership Capacity Building Tools: BLM Partnership Website and Upcoming Technical Assistance/Coaching Program	<a href="#">2006-021</a>
IM	2005	8/17/2005	2005-225	6100	Annual Report of Operations and Aid to Federal Land Management Agency(ies), A Unified Reporting Form for Interpretive (Cooperating) Associations DD: 09/30/2005	<a href="#">2005-225</a>
IB	2005	8/3/2005	2005-152	6100	National Landscape Conservation System Science Strategy DD: 09/02/2005	<a href="#">2005-152</a>
IM	2005	3/11/2005	2005-102	6100	Five-Year Schedule for Comprehensive Condition Assessments of Recreation and Administrative Sites; DD: 04/1/05	<a href="#">2005-102</a>
IM	2005	12/24/2004	2005-051	6100	FY 2007 - 2011 Deferred Maintenance and Capital Improvement Plan; DD: 04/01/2005; 05/02/05; 06/03/2005	<a href="#">2005-051</a>
IB	2005	1/7/2005	2005-042	6100	Association of Partners for Public Lands (APPL) Convention	<a href="#">2005-042</a>
IM	2004	7/16/2004	2004-214	6230	Working with Conservation Districts; DD: 07/30/2004	<a href="#">2004-214</a>
IB	2004	5/11/2004	2004-102	6100	National Landscape Conservation System Units and Fire Management Planning	<a href="#">2004-102</a>
IB	2004	5/6/2004	2004-096	6100	Bureau of Land Management Legends Honoree for Great Outdoors Week, June 7-11, 2004	<a href="#">2004-096</a>
IB	2003	7/31/2003	2003-122	6100	Point-of-Contact for Recreation.Gov and Washington Office NLCS Web	<a href="#">2003-122</a>
IB	2003	12/17/2002	2003-039	6100	Bureau of Land Management Support for the National Park Service's "Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future" Traveling Museum During the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration, 2003-2006; DD: 01/10/2003	<a href="#">2003-039</a>
IM	2003	9/27/2002	2003-003	2071	Policy for Bureau of Land Management Visitor Center and Administrative Office Locations Related to National Monuments	<a href="#">2003-003</a>
IM	2002	4/9/2002	2002-140	6230, 6240	Conducting a Self-Assessment for National Conservation Areas (NCAs) and National Monuments (NMs); DD: 05/03/2002	<a href="#">2002-140</a>
IB	2002	5/16/2002	2002-099	6240	Follow Through on Efforts Regarding the National Monuments; DD: 06/14/2002	<a href="#">2002-099</a>
IB	2002	3/19/2002	2002-066	6100	An Invitation to Participate in a Workshop on Non-Profit Partnerships, Friends Groups, Associations, and Foundations in Las Vegas, Nevada, May 21 - 23, 2002; DD: 04/03/2002	<a href="#">2002-066</a>

Type	Fiscal Year	Release Date	Number	Subject Code(s)	Title	Link
IM	2002	10/4/2001	2002-008	2071	Interim Management Policy for Bureau of Land Management National Monuments and National Conservation Areas	<a href="#">2002-008</a>
IM	2001	5/2/2001	2001-134	6240	Procedures for Acknowledging Responses to Secretary Norton's March 28, 2001, Letter Regarding Newly Designated National Monuments	<a href="#">2001-134</a>
IM	2001	3/2/2011	2001-107	6230, 6240	Establishing Advisory Councils/Committees for National Conservation Areas (NCAs) and National Monuments	<a href="#">2001-107</a>
IB	2001	5/8/2001	2001-103	6100	Bureau of Land Management - National Landscape Conservation System: Draft Agenda and List of Conference Nomine	<a href="#">2001-103</a>
IB	2001	3/2/2001	2001-076	6100	Bureau of Land Management National Landscape Conservation System Conference, Request for Nominees and Agenda Topics, DD: Agenda Topics: 03/14/2001, DD: Nominations: 03/23/2001	<a href="#">2001-076</a>
IB	2001	1/30/2001	2001-067	6100	Information on the National Landscape Conservation System	<a href="#">2001-067</a>
IB	2001	11/24/2000	2001-027	8500	Request for Review of Draft National Landscape Conservation System Manual DD: 12/08/2000	<a href="#">2001-027</a>
IM	2001	10/31/2000	2001-022	6240	Planning Guidance for National Monuments and National Conservation Areas	<a href="#">2001-022</a>
IB	2001	11/21/2000	2001-022	8500	Model Position Descriptions for National Monument and National Conservation Area Managers	<a href="#">2001-022</a>
IB	2001	10/31/2000	2001-011	8500	National Landscape Conservation System Final Workshop Report and Action Items Matrix	<a href="#">2001-011</a>
IB	2001	10/11/2000	2001-005	8500	National Landscape Conservation System Digest and Fact Sheets	<a href="#">2001-005</a>
IB	2000	3/23/2000	2000-091	8010	National Landscape Conservation System Workshop DD: 04/14/2000	<a href="#">2000-091</a>
IM	2000	1/11/2000	2000-062	2071	Interim Management Policy for Newly Created National Monuments	<a href="#">2000-062</a>

**INFORMATION/BRIEFING MEMORANDUM  
FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY – LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT**

**DATE:** February 21, 2017

**FROM:** Kristin Bail, Acting Director – Bureau of Land Management

**SUBJECT:** Bears Ears National Monument Public Open House Meetings

The purpose of this briefing memo is to outline a proposal for public information meetings about the newly designated Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah.

**BACKGROUND**

Following the December 28, 2016, designation of the Bears Ears National Monument the former Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, which have joint jurisdiction over the unit, announced that the agencies would conduct open house meetings in January 2017 to begin engaging with the public and to “answer questions from permittees and other interested stakeholders.”

In preparation for those meetings, the two agencies first met with the tribes identified in the monument proclamation (the Hopi Nation, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray, and Zuni Tribe) and with key partners including San Juan County and the State of Utah. Scheduling these meetings has resulted in a temporary delay in scheduling the open house meetings.

On January 18, 2017, the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) issued a news release stating that the first public open house would be held in late February. This news release was issued partially in response to questions from the public concerning any steps the BLM had taken or would be taking regarding the monument.

Due to the logistics of scheduling the proposed public open houses, the BLM-Utah will not be able to host the first open house by the end of February as per the news release.

**DISCUSSION**

In an effort to follow through with previously made public commitments, BLM Utah (along with the USFS) is proposing to host three open house meetings in mid-March. The purposes of the meeting are: 1) to provide accurate information to the public about the monument; 2) to listen to concerns; and 3) to let the public know about future public involvement opportunities.

The BLM and the USFS proposes the following schedule and locations:

Dates: Three days during the week of March 13-17.  
Times: 5:00 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Cities: Monticello, a city in San Juan County near the Monument.  
Monument Valley, at the request of tribes.  
Salt Lake City, the state capital.

Venues will be reserved upon approval of the meetings.

The meetings will be an open house format with “information stations” on various topics, including, livestock grazing, recreation (including hunting, motorized, and non-motorized recreation), cultural resources, land use planning, and traditional uses such as wood gathering.. (See Attachment 1) Attendees may circulate through a series of stations where staff will present information about each topic. The information displayed will include factual information about each program, resource, or resource use, and, as appropriate along with associated maps.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Determine whether to hold public meetings in mid-March. If the decision is to hold the meetings:

1. Identify meeting locations, times, and dates.
2. Issue a jointly prepared BLM and USFS news release announcing the meetings.
3. Prepare meeting materials (e.g. maps, handouts, and display boards)

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1) List of proposed topics to be covered at open house.

## **Attachment 1: Bears Ears National Monument Public Open House Meetings**

The following are examples of the types of information that may be shared at the meetings:

### ***Motorized Vehicle Use***

Maps will be displayed showing existing designated routes. Motorized recreation will continue on designated routes in the Bears Ears National Monument.

### ***Hunting***

Hunting permits are issued by the State of Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. The monument designation does not affect hunting.

### ***Camping***

The monument offers opportunities for dispersed camping. No permits are required for car camping. Visitors should use established campsites and avoid impacting undisturbed areas. Camping will continue as before the monument designation.

### ***Visiting Cultural Heritage Sites***

The monument offers a unique opportunity to visit cultural heritage sites including the remains of prehistoric family dwellings, granaries, kivas, towers, and large villages. Some sites are accessible by motorized vehicle others sites are only accessible by foot. These sites are fragile and irreplaceable and need to be treated with care. Some of the most frequently visited sites are identified on the existing 2016 Monticello Field Office Recreation Map.

The monument designation has had no effect on the existing permit system. Day use and multiple-day use permits are required for many of the Cedar Mesa Canyons, including Grand Gulch. This area is managed for a more primitive type of recreation. Permits can be obtained through the BLM Monticello Field Office.

### ***Wilderness Study Areas***

Since 1980, the BLM has recognized the wilderness qualities of and managed approximately 381,000 acres (28 percent) as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) located within the monument. The BLM will continue to manage the WSAs to preserve their suitability for wilderness designation until Congress makes a final determination on whether to designate these areas as wilderness.

### ***Livestock Grazing***

Livestock grazing will continue to occur in the monument. The terms and conditions for grazing (such as stipulations on forage use and season of use) are set forth in the permits and leases issued by the BLM and Forest Service to ranchers.

### ***Wood Collection***

The existing Monticello Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP) identifies areas that are open for wood collection. The BLM will continue to issue permits for private and commercial wood collection based on the availability of woodland products and protection of other resource values. Native American traditional use plant collection will continue.

***Monument Advisory Committee***

The BLM and Forest Service will establish a Monument Advisory Committee (MAC) to provide information and advice regarding the development of a management plan and management of the monument. This advisory committee will consist of a balanced representation of interested stakeholders, including State and local governments, tribes, recreational users, local business owners, and private landowners. The BLM and Forest Service will publicly seek nominations for the MAC. Anyone who is interested and meets certain qualifications may apply.

***Land Use Planning***

The BLM and USFS will jointly prepare a management plan for the monument. A starting date for the plan has not been determined. During land use planning, the agencies will collaborate with local, State, and tribal governments, the public, user groups, and industry to identify appropriate uses of lands within the monument. The management plan will be used to guide future management decisions and ensure protection of natural and cultural resources. Public scoping and involvement will be a key component of the planning process.

**INFORMATION/BRIEFING MEMORANDUM  
FOR THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY – LAND AND MINERALS MANAGEMENT**

**DATE:** February 21, 2017

**FROM:** Kristin Bail, Acting Director – Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

**SUBJECT:** Key information on the Bears Ears National Monument, Utah

The purpose of this memo is to provide an overview of the Bears Ears National Monument.

**KEY FACTS**

- On December 28, 2016, the 1,351,849-acre Bears Ears National Monument in San Juan County, Utah, was designated by presidential proclamation to be jointly managed by the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS).
- The new monument includes 1.063 million acres managed by the BLM and 290,000 acres managed by the USFS within the boundaries of the Manti-La Sal National Forest.
- More than 380,000 acres of the Federal lands within the boundaries are currently managed by the BLM as 11 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs). The BLM-managed part of the monument also contains nine Special Recreation Management Areas, which are managed for their recreation opportunities. The USFS administers the 46,000-acre Dark Canyon Wilderness just north of the Bears Ears formation, as well as the Cliff Dwellers Pasture Research Natural Area.
- Bears Ears National Monument is expected to contribute to Utah’s recreational economy and add to the economic effects of the BLM’s National Conservation Lands, which contributed more than \$105 million in economic output and supported nearly 1,200 jobs in Utah as of 2016.<sup>1</sup>

**BACKGROUND**

The idea of a national monument in this area is not new: calls for protection of the Bears Ears began more than 80 years ago. The land that is now the Bears Ears National Monument was part of a larger area proposed for designation as early as 1936 by then-Interior Secretary Harold L. Ickes. Other areas within the initial proposal were subsequently designated as Capitol Reef National Park and Canyonlands National Park, managed by the National Park Service.

The monument protects some of the most significant cultural, desert landscapes in the U.S., including abundant rock art, ancient cliff dwellings, ceremonial sites, and other places important

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<sup>1</sup> “An Analysis of the Economic Effects of the National Conservation Lands,” February 2017 (draft).

to Native American tribes. Recognizing the importance of the area, tribes with ties to the region began working on a specific proposal six years ago to protect this area under the Antiquities Act. To reflect tribal expertise, the Bears Ears Commission, established in the monument proclamation, has been created to enable tribes to share insight with Federal land managers. The proclamation for the Bears Ears National Monument also establishes a local advisory committee made up of interested stakeholders including state and local governments, tribes, recreational users, local business owners, and private landowners.

## **DISCUSSION**

The monument preserves current uses of the land, including tribal access and traditional collection of plants and firewood, off-highway vehicle recreation, hunting and fishing, grazing, military training operations, utility corridors, and other valid and existing rights.

The BLM and the USFS will undertake a monument planning process for Bear Ears National Monument, including the opportunity for public input, according to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and agency regulations and policy.

The BLM will manage the monument according to the Bureau's relevant manual (BLM Manual 6220–National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, and Similar Designations, 7/13/2012). More specifically, the BLM will follow a checklist (Attachment 2) that sets out steps that monument staff should take immediately (e.g., “Identify an interim manager/point of contact for the new National Conservation Lands unit”) as well as longer-term actions (e.g., “Reach out to the cooperating agencies and entities identified in the designating language”).